

INTELLOFAX TO

Approved For Release 2001/11/02 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004200410005

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 31 JAN 50

SUBJECT **The Bor Mines**

NO. OF PAGES

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

25X1X

1. An electric power plant supplied by coke is the source of energy for the Bor Mines. The power plant is in a deplorable condition and is kept in operation only by continual patch work and improvisation. The chief of the electrical maintenance section, Milan Ilich, a non-Communist, stated that with extreme care the power plant may last for one more year. The boiler works, the dynamos, cables and machinery are old and are falling apart. No equipment was furnished by the Russians. The Germans had plans for building a new power plant at Kostavac about 30 kilometers southwest of the Bor Mine, in the coal mining area. The Germans completed about 30 per cent of the project and erected a power line from Kostavac to the Bor Mines; the Yugoslavs have not completed the plant, but only erected a small power unit which was capable of supplying the town of Kostavac. The power line constructed by the Germans is not in use.
2. The daily consumption of coke for the power plant and the three smeltery works at the Bor Mines averaged 50 tons. The coke came mostly from Poland and some from Czechoslovakia. Coke shipments were still arriving in May 1949. At no time was there a higher reserve than a five-day supply. Daily shipments arrived from Negotin-Kladovo on the Danube. The Germans left a one year coke reserve which has been used. Until May, work was stopped three times for a few days' period because of the lack of coke.
3. Equipment and Supplies:
 - a. Of the 12 mechanical shovels used for digging the ore, only one can be considered to be in good condition. The other 11 break down continually and are idle half of the time until improvised repairs can be made.
 - b. There is one elevator that holds 15 people. It is run by electricity and is in good working condition. The lift goes down nine galleries. There are 200 horses in the mines for pulling the carts under ground to the elevator.
 - c. There are 20 locomotives of medium size each capable of hauling 20 cars of ten ton capacity. Only two of the locomotives were in good condition, but new ones were expected from an un-named country.

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1. ☒ Release in Plain
 2. ☐ Restricted
 3. ☐ Declassified To: TS S (C)
 Auth: NA 70-2
 Date: 12 JUN 1978 By: 019

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

25X1A

- d. There are 12 trucks, eight GMC and four Czechoslovak types. During the winter (1948) the army took the eight GMC and replaced them with old German diesel trucks. The director of the mine, Radulovic (sic), had a Chevrolet sedan.
 - e. There are about 500 to 600 compressor drills. The compressors are in poor condition and break down continually. New compressors were to be manufactured in Zagreb, but they did not work when they were tried at the mines. About 100 compressors are used simultaneously, and are run by gasoline engines.
 - f. There is a drastic lack of good drills for use in the compressors. Since there are no drill replacements, the old drills lose their efficiency through heat and become soft. Approximately 3 tons of drills (sic) are estimated to be used up daily. Drills were procured from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Zone in Germany, as well as the black market in Italy up to May. Negotiations were under way to procure some hard steel from Trieste from Giovanni Grbin (Via Tiziano-Vecelli #9; Telephone 46-05), on 15 July 1948. The negotiations were not successful.
 - g. Essential spare parts for the above-mentioned equipment are non-existent. There is, however, one large warehouse which stores electric motors of 120 volts (German stocks which were to be used with transformers), a plentiful supply of hand picks, shovels, helmets, carbide lamps, and hammers.
 - h. No definite oil figures are available, but supplies are short and do not satisfy the demand. Used oil is filtered and reused constantly. UNRA supplies lasted up to the end of 1948. Some oil had been received from Rumania (exact figures are not known).
 - i. No exact figures on explosives are available, but there always seems to be plenty of dynamite.
 - j. No exact figures are available on caustic soda, carbide and similar supplies. About ten tons were used monthly. There was a good supply on hand with no shortage encountered. There is a sufficient amount of carbide and a sufficient supply of timber.
4. Before the war the mines employed from 400 to 500 workers. At present 9,000 people work in the mines, and a total of 13,000 people are at work including the Bor Mines Cooperatives. Six hundred of this number are women. No women work in the mines. About 2,000 miners work underground and 7,000 work above ground. They work three eight-hour shifts. Of the 9,000 miners, 4,000 are considered permanent workers. The other 5,000 are made up of so-called "volunteers", the majority of which were sentenced up to six months for political reasons and were permitted to volunteer for work at the Bor Mines. This method is used by the government to prevent forced labor criticism. The average pay of the 4,000 regular workers amounts to 2,500/4,000 dinars per month depending on the type of work and the amount of work done. A few top Communists receive as much as 8,000 dinars per month. There is an acute lack of competent engineers, administrators and skilled workers.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

5. There are no exact figures on production. It is estimated that the mines produce from 300 to 400 tons of "pure" copper ore per day which is exported. About 100 tons of copper ore is processed in the smelting furnaces at the mines, producing five kilograms of gold and copper sheets which are used by the state. Most of the copper ore had been sent to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland.
6. Clothing and boots for the miners are in short supply and are furnished by the state through the Bor Mine Cooperative. Only 40 per cent of the requirement for clothes and boots were met in 1948. Work clothing is supposed to be drawn according to need. Two outfits of civilian clothing are allocated each year. These are bought through ration coupons given out by the Communist Party. A civilian suit costs 4500 dinars, shoes 400 dinars, overcoat 3000 dinars, and shirts 280 dinars. Clothing is scarce and often the ration coupons are useless.
7. The Bor Mines have three cooperative messes which feed 9,000 workers. Food in these messes was plentiful and not rationed, and consisted of plenty of meat, vegetables, bread, fruit and soup. Most of this food was forcibly procured from the peasants in the area. Workers were charged 600 dinars per month for the food but actually ate 1300 dinars worth of food. Four other cooperative messes fed the dependents of the workers; the food was almost the same. The dependents consist of young children not old enough to work. Women are classified as workers. The dependents were not charged for their meals. Food ration for private homes was 250 grams of black bread per day, and no state responsibility existed for the procurement of food for private homes. Everyone had to work by law and could eat at the messes.
8. Single workers lived in barracks which accommodated 40 people. Families are housed in one or two rooms in homes and buildings with no cooking facilities. The pre-war housing facilities took care of 5,000 people. Additional rooms were built to accommodate 2,000 people. However there are approximately 13,500 people living near the Bor Mines, which makes the housing problem very acute. Rents average 60 dinars per month for single workers and 100 dinars per month for families. Toilet facilities are non-existent. The water supply is extremely short and is turned off 50 per cent of the time. Soap supplies satisfy only 20 per cent of the needs.
9. Control Sections of the Bor Mines.
 - a. Minister of Mines - General Svetozar (Tempo) Bukmanovic
 - b. Director General for Metals (excluding iron) Kostic (sic) of Belgrade.
 - c. Director of Bor Mines - Radulovic (sic).
 - d. Supply Section for Workers - Chief: Petar Ivanovski - 1947-January 1949;
Stevan Bogdanovic - February-March 1949;
Gojko Radic - present.
 - e. Economic Section
 - f. Smelters Sections
 - g. Surface Diggers Section
 - h. Underground Diggers Section
 - i. Transport Section
 - j. Plans and Control Section.
10. The workers are all members of the Bor Mine Workers Syndicate which is controlled by the Communists. About 10 per cent of the regular workers are real Communists. The Tito-Cominform split has had no visible effect on the workers. Rumors had circulated in Belgrade that the Director of Bor Mines, Radulovic, escaped to Rumania.

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